BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 17 | Humidity 43% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 53,424 | Nifty 16,013 | Gold 54,025 | Silver 71,534 | Dollar 76.96 | Euro 84.02 | GBP 100.91

Haralur residents organise signature campaign against illegal dumping of waste in abandoned quarry. Experts say trashing of site in violation of NGT directive

BACKYARD LANDFILL

Leachate may lead to groundwater contamination

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of housing societies along the Dinne Anjaneya Swamy Temple Road in Haralur are up in arms against garbage-laden trucks dumping tonnes of waste in their backyards.

The assorted garbage from unidentified sources is being dumped regularly in an abandoned quarry pit in the neighbourhood for months now.

"Truckloads of trash have been dumped in this quarry for the last four to five months. The pit had been abandoned for over two to three years. It slowly accumulated water and turned into a small lake. The water was in a pristine state till the dumping started. Multiple private trucks come every day with heaps of mixed garbage. This goes on round the clock," said Saurabh Gupta, a resident of an apartment complex near the quarry.

According to eyewitnesses, around four to five trucks discard huge amounts of garbage into the quarry every day. The locals alleged this has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Five months ago, there was a beautiful waterbody here which now is a dump yard

— Ashutosh Kapoor, resident

How to beat forest fires

Only tribespeople, villagers physically capable of reaching specific spots

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Villagers are helping forest watchers check forest fires in Bandipur range. Volunteers from nearby Mangala village beat fires with green twigs at a low-intensity stage even before it came to the notice of forest watchers.

Forest fires are common in these parts with some fires going up to 30 feet high. If not stopped on time, it spreads beyond control and leads to heavy losses to life and property. So, the villagers decided to do something about it.

Though the NGO Kriya was established in 2021, the work has been happening for years now. The current trustees of the organisation started as volunteers to reduce the incidence of forest fires and handed over the task to the villagers. The team is also spreading awareness.

"Most forest fires are man-made. When the fire rages, surrounding areas get affected. The cultivated lands of villagers experience water shortage with the perennial river running dry; groundwater starts receding too. As a first step, we started educating villagers about the harmful effects of forest fires. To reduce the practice of wood-burning, we were able to arrange natural gas connections for some households," said Daniel Sukumar, wildlife activist and project mentor.

Being the first ones to notice the fire, the team started to physically extinguish the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 For the women

Orion Uptown Mall is all set to host Saavishkaar: a unique platform conceptualised to help women across all walks of life showcase their talents. Saavishkaar invites women singers, musicians, artists and performers to wow the world with their gifts and skills. The activities include solo & group dance performances, solo singing, spot choreography, exhibitions of handmade crafts, painting and embroidery, fashion, and group activities like antakshari and treasure hunt.

Where: Orion Uptown Mall
When: Registrations till March 10
Register: 9902346516/ kalpavrikshabangalore13@gmail.com

02 Delve into a book

Bibliophiles, what are you reading these days? Is there a book or an author that has amazed you recently? Discuss it with like-minded people at this special club for bookworms and share the magic of some wordsmiths who not only influenced us but shaped our lives in some way.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: March 12, 4-5 pm
Register: 9886294444

03 Tune in, folks!

Take a break from the stress and monotony of work by attending a beautiful musical evening at Lahe Lahe. The session will have musical aficionados come and jam together and form a community of like-minded musical souls. What's more, you can even tune out a few songs of yourself too!
Where: Lahe Lahe, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar
When: Wednesdays, 7:30pm – 9:30pm
Tickets: 9886294444

Students delay the jab courtesy exam season

Students postpone getting inoculated as they don't want to fall sick while prepping

Garima Prasher
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BBMP health workers administer the vaccine to eligible students on campus (file pic)

The pace of Covid-19 vaccination for teenagers aged 15-17 has slackened in the city, say officials. With ongoing internal tests and upcoming board examinations, many in the target age group are keeping away from the vaccine. Students and parents say they cannot afford to fall sick during exam season.

Pranav M, a Class XII student, received the first dose of the vaccine when the drive for 15-to 17-year-olds began on January 3.

While the second dose is due in a couple of weeks, Pranav and his parents are hesitant.

"His final practicals will begin soon. We are waiting for Prava's school to release the schedule so we can zero in on a date for the second dose. Whenever he gets a considerable time gap between two exams, we will get him jabbed," said Pranav's parents.

Parents are worried about the side effects of the vaccine and say they cannot take the risk of children falling sick during examination season.

Everyone taking the vaccination is bound to fall ill, said another parent in the city.

"It can be a mild fever for one or two days or can cause weakness over a stretched period. With the ongoing internal tests and board examinations just round the corner, we are contemplating getting our daughter vaccinated only after the examinations are over."

Those yet to get the first dose are considering delaying the whole process.

> **"We are waiting for CBSE to release the timetable. If the dates are spaced out, we will consider getting the jab**
>
> –a parent

"We contracted covid-19 in January this year and thus, my son had to wait for three months before he could get his vaccination. He is in Class XII and will be appearing for the boards and JEE Main, starting April 16. This is coinciding with his vaccination schedule," said another parent, adding that they were planning to go for it once the exams were over."

As per the timetable announced by the National Testing Agency, JEE Main 2022 will be held from April 16 to 21. The II PUC examination is slotted between April 22 and May 11, while CBSE Term 2 will start from April 26.

Another parent, whose daughter will be appearing for JEE Main and II PUC this year, has her first shot schedule coinciding with the JEE Main timetable.

"The II PUC examination begins immediately after that. Taking the vaccine will slow her down for at least two to three days."

Many are waiting for the board examination timetable to be released before they reach a decision.

"We are waiting for CBSE to release the timetable. If the dates are spaced out, we will consider getting the jab during the examination," said another parent.

According to the BBMP officials, there has been a drop in the number of children turning up for the vaccination.

"While the second dose of the vaccination for children between the age group of 15-17 is going on, the pace has slowed down," said a BBMP official.

As of now, while 97 per cent of the target population has been covered with the first dose, over 50 per cent have been inoculated with the second dose.

"While the COWIN portal is reflecting 72 per cent inoculations of the first dose, as per our records and field verification, around 97 per cent of the target population has been covered," said Dr A S Balasundar, chief health officer, Health Department, BBMP.

Cases on the wane in Bengaluru

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Cases in the city are at their lowest compared to the second wave

Bengaluru on Tuesday recorded the lowest daily Covid cases as compared to the second wave. On Tuesday, Bengaluru reported 130 cases while on Monday it was less than 100.

A health expert explained that on Monday, Covid cases fell below 100 for the first time since the outbreak of the third wave: the lowest even when compared with the second wave. "We are seeing this trend across the country where weekly cases are the lowest. In the third wave, while Bengaluru is yet to see zero Covid deaths in a day, the number of deaths has dropped to single digits."

Mahadevapura continues to have higher positivity rate in the city with 1.62 per cent followed by Bommanahalli (1.46 per cent), RR Nagar (1.3 per cent), Yelahanka (0.96 per cent), Dasarahalli (0.88 per cent), East (0.63 per cent), South (0.5 per cent) and the least in West zone: 0.3 per cent. With reduced cases, 180 out of 193 wards are reporting less than 10 cases a day.

Though Bellandur continues to top the chart with maximum cases, the cases have now dropped from 500 plus to 14 a day. There is a drastic decrease in containment zones as well with just four active containment zones in the city with one each in Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, East, South and Bommanahalli. The hospitalisation rate is also hovering between zero and one case a day. The test positivity rate has now fallen to 0.47 per cent. However, the case fatality rate is 4.06 per cent.

In another achievement, India's active caseload has dropped below 50,000 after 664 days. The active caseload has dropped to 2,308 in Bengaluru.

CELEBRATING SHEROES

Female officers given special treatment at every city police station

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On the occasion of the International Women's Day, women police officers ranked as WPSI, ASI and head constables were appointed as Station House Officers (SHOs) at all city police stations for a day.

As part of the Bangalore City Police (BCP)'s initiative, law and order and traffic police stations across the city were decked up with pink balloons just to ensure that the women staff at each station felt happy and elated about "their day", said a senior police officer.

Police inspectors of each station celebrated the day by cutting a cake and distributing it among all officials. Moreover, at law and order police stations, women complainants were called up and invited to the police stations and details about their case status were discussed by women SHOs. Apart from this, women victims, survivors or complainants who were at the station were given special preference and attention.

At many law and order and traffic police stations, open house competitions were organised where girl students from schools and colleges were invited. "They (school and college students) were apprised on a few general laws and Acts such as Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) - good touch and bad touch, consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products (under Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COPTA), and outraging modesty of women (including awareness on eve teasing near educational institutions). The girl students took a vow that they would be observant as to what all happens in and around their campuses," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Division) Sanjeev M Patil.

KAUSHIK JN

International Women's Day being observed by Bangalore City Police at CAR headquarters on Tuesday

The girl students were also taken for a walkthrough at the police stations and were briefed how the department functions.

Even at traffic police stations across the city, women SHOs were deployed for the day. Girl students were briefed on how police officers are enforcing traffic discipline on city roads. "Students were counselled about road safety and the importance of observing and following traffic rules while they are commuting," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Traffic, Kuldeep Kumar Jain.

City police commissioner Kamal Pant told Bangalore Mirror that incidentally, the city police had their weekly meeting today (Tuesday). "We took that as an opportunity and resolved that we will serve the women who have been our mothers, sisters, daughters and life partners, and see that they are treated with compassion, respect and with dignity. All officers took a vow saying that all women in the city will be able to live without any fear or insecurities to their freedom," Kamal Pant said.

Birthday party ends at police station

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A 21-year-old youth, who went to a pub in Koramangala to celebrate his friend's birthday, was allegedly manhandled and assaulted by the employees after he and his friends "accidentally" broke a speaker stand while dancing on the floor on Sunday night.

Arjun, a resident of JP Nagar has filed a complaint with the Koramangala police against the staff of the well-known pub in Koramangala 7th block. Based on his complaint, the police have arrested the four accused staff from the pub.

The incident took place on Sunday night when Arjun along with his friends went to the pub around 9:30 pm. Arjun told the police that around 11:50 pm, while they were dancing, his friend Raghava broke the tripod stand where the speaker was kept. Arjun and Raghava got into an argument with the bar staff who demanded them to pay the extra charges. "The argument escalated and the staff took us near the bathroom where they assaulted us. They hit us on our face, stomach and neck using their hands. They pushed us around and abused us in vulgar language," he stated.

Police said that all of them had consumed too much alcohol before getting into a fight. A senior officer said that Arjun and his friends, aged 21-30 years, are working in private companies.

They approached the police late Sunday night to file a complaint. "One of them broke the tripod holding a speaker kept at the pub. The staff alleged that all of them were trying to sneak away and escape from the pub to avoid paying for the damages when they caught them. On checking, they realised that the speaker was also damaged and as it was an expensive speaker they asked them to bear the charges. They refused and got into an argument. "After the complaint was filed, we immediately arrested all four staff including the manager of the pub," he said.

Police have seized the speaker along with the tripod and further investigation is underway.

FAKE NEWS BUSTER MIRROR

VACCINE DOES NOT CREATE COVID VARIANTS

THE CLAIM

A video that went viral among social media users features interviews with many individuals sharing their views against the covid-19 vaccine. In one segment of the video, they made the claim that taking the covid-19 vaccines can lead to the creation of "new, infectious pathogenic variants."

SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

Experts have rubbished the claim, stating that there is no scientific explanation to back the statement. The World Health Organisation clarified that vaccination, along with the adherence to hand hygiene, physical distancing, and wearing of masks, remains the most effective way of preventing transmission and thereby reducing the risk of viral mutations. According to scientists, when compared to the unvaccinated, those who have received the vaccine are less likely to contract covid-19, regardless of the variant.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

On the occasion of Women's Day on Tuesday, women newspaper vendors across the state were felicitated by Times Group's Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror

No scars to your beautiful

Bengaluru-based startup says its silk protein bandage can help lighten, remove C-section, burn scars and more in weeks

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Fibroheal Woundcare, a Bengaluru-based startup, has developed a silk protein bandage, D-Fibroheal Scarlite, which can aid removal of C-section, burn and other surgery-caused scars.

Vivek Mishra, the founder, director and CEO, told BM the company buys cut cocoons left behind by fully-grown moths – raw materials which are of no use in the textile industry – from silk farmers for this. It isolates two proteins, then uses different molecular weights and concentrations of the proteins to develop its products, Mishra said.

"Most opt to deliver via C-section these days and the procedure leaves scars. Our product is an adhesive dressing, to be applied for one week. It takes four to five dressings. The bandage is transparent and waterproof proof and allows air transmissibility so there won't be itching."

These bandages are less painful for burn patients to remove. They are transparent, triple-layer, waterproof, soft, absorbent, PU foam pads with adhesive backing and anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and moisturising properties. They help treat the scars formed due to trauma injuries and cosmetic procedures too.

Inset: Pic of the bandage; it can reduce scar visibility in a week

"It keeps the wound area and its surrounding skin optimally moist, significantly reduces scar formation, itching and irritation. Flexible non-woven adhesive layers do not restrict bodily movements and help ease of application and removal. One can even wear them for more than two weeks for the complete removal of scars. For partial removal people should be able to see the scars lighten up in a week's time," Mishra said.

> **It keeps the wound area and its surrounding skin optimally moist, significantly reduces scar formation, itching and irritation**
>
> –Vivek Mishra, founder, director, CEO, Fibroheal Woundcare

"Silk has a potential to generate an economic multiplier effect and this can be helpful for silk growing farmers, the patients, doctors and hospitals as it is easily accessible if affordable. We are also the first company from India and among a few in the world to have commercialised a silk protein-based basket of comprehensive wound management solutions," said Mishra.

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Smriti Tripathi
(Under Secretary)
Tel: 26511184

davp 36106/12/0016/2122

State govt is set on decongesting B'luru

The state government has decided to decongest Bengaluru, meaning it will encourage industries to take their businesses to tier-two cities. It has reduced sops (concessions) for industries in the city and provided additional sops for industries in other districts.

On Tuesday, large and medium industries minister Murugesh Nirani said, "The state government has reduced sops for industries in Bengaluru and Bengaluru Rural district in order to promote industries in tier-two cities like Tumakuru, Kalaburagi and Belagavi. It will extend all help and concessions to those who invest in these cities."

He added the government is establishing industrial townships in five divisions across the state. Replying to JD(S) MLC CN Manje Gowda's query in the Council, he emphasised on the 'Walk to Work' concept. He said the government will allow the setting up of satellite towns near factories and 85 per cent of the developed land will be allotted for industries and the rest will be kept for townships.

Silencing speculation and rumours regarding Kolar's BEML factory, he denied any moves were taken to hand over the factory to private companies. He said BEML is under the centre's control.

Responding to JD(S) MLC Govindraju's question in the Council, he said Khata (deed) for 12,500 acres in BEML's 16,000-acre land was done.

"Centre has agreed to hand over 3,500 acres to the state government for industrial purposes. We have conducted another drone survey; its report will be submitted to the union minister. I will hold talks with the union mines minister in Delhi on March 10 and take the next decision."

"BEML has 1,149 acres of land. Earlier 979 acre was allotted for industrial area development but the land was not utilised. It will be taken back to set up industries. The centre's economic affairs department has decided against the closure of the factory," he said.

Further, Nirani said, "The centre's parliamentary committee on economic affairs has decided to withdraw stakes from government-owned factories so it will be withdrawn in phases. The 47 per cent stake in BEML will remain." -Prakash VL

Kannadigas get priority for jobs

Reiterating the government's stand on helping Kannadigas gain priority to secure jobs, the minister warned of action if industries violate rules. "As per a clause in the 2020-25 Industrial Policy, the individual units must provide 100 per cent jobs in D group and 70 per cent of total jobs to Kannadigas. As per Dr Sarojini Mahishi's report, 85 per cent of the jobs in the state must go to Kannadigas. We will take action if industries violate this," Nirani warned.

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Waste of space
Fraser Town

The authorities must clear the garbage lying on this footpath on MM Road.

Incomplete work
Ulsoor

The work on the footpath on the busy road across Ulsoor Lake that leads to Fraser Town is incomplete.

Stumped
Banashankari

A resident wonders why the authorities have not cleared the mess almost six months after a tree fell in 14th Cross on Shastri Nagar Main Road, in 2nd Stage. The remains of the fallen tree are blocking the footpath and affecting the movement of motorists on the road.

Please let suburban rail project pick up pace

Citizens' group pens open letter to CM, says as per plan, airport corridor should start functioning by Oct 2023

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Citizens for Citizens (C4C), a Bengaluru-based NGO, has now written an open letter to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and other officials concerned asking them to take decisive action and expedite the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project on war-footing.

"This project got the Centre's approval in October 2020. The union government specified six years for completion of the project with the recommendation to prioritise and complete the airport corridor within three years. As per the sanction letter, while the corridor should start functioning by October 2023, nothing has moved on the ground. Moreover, K-RIDE has never clarified the reasons behind this delay," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder, C4C.

Suburban rail project got the Centre's approval in October 2020

Notably, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (BMRCL) metro line to the airport is also in progress. Experts say even if the 58-km corridor comes up within the stipulated time frame, it will cater to only a fraction of the city on the outskirts. While BMRCL's airport corridor touches the eastern and northern edges of the city, the suburban rail is planned right at the heart of Bengaluru.

"The suburban railway will begin at the City Railway station and will cater to the busy areas such as Malleswaram, Yeshwantpur and Yelahanka before it reaches the airport. City and Yeshwantpur stations also have BMTC bus stands and Metro stations nearby. Thus, the entire functional metro network will have access to the airport," added Dugar.

The letter dated March 6 also lists 21 reasons for the airport corridor under the suburban rail project to be completed on war footing. It questions the delay in the project despite K-RIDE receiving the sanction letter much before BMRCL; more so when the recommendations to complete the airport corridor of the project also came from the Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT).

"Bengaluru airport is one of the fastest-growing airports and with terminal 2 almost ready, the traffic is going to increase further. By 2023-24, average footfall is likely to reach three lakh daily. The suburban rail will be on par with Metro in terms of comfort, safety, speed and frequency," reasoned Dugar. The letter also highlights that the airport corridor under the suburban rail project will not only reduce traffic congestion at major junctions leading to the airport but also won't cause road blocks during construction as most of the work is away from busy stretches. To add to that, the time for the completion of the project is less than BMRCL's airport corridor project.

> **"The rail will begin at City Rly station and cater to busy areas such as Malleswaram, Yeshwantpur and Yelahanka**
>
> –Rajkumar Dugar, C4C

The fault in their stars: Woman goes to the cops

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TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

A 25-year-old woman has gone to the police after her boyfriend of three years allegedly backed out of his promise of marriage, citing a horoscope mismatch. The Jnanabharathi police have registered an FIR against the man and his family booking the prime accused for sexual assault and him and his family for cheating the woman.

In her complaint to the police, the woman states she met the accused at work and they have been together for some years. They have travelled to various cities together, and both their parents also knew about the relationship, she says. "We have also been in a live-in relationship between October 2018 to November 2021. He would promise me always that we would get married in the near future," the woman told Bangalore Mirror.

Last November, the woman started bringing up the marriage with the man often. "His family knew about us and his sister-in-law was fully in support of our relationship," she added. So it came as a shock to the woman when the man backed off saying that their horoscopes hadn't matched.

She warned him not to change his mind, but as time went by, the man started distancing himself from her. She sought her family's help to talk and convince the man's family members. But, Pavan's family members were not ready to listen, she said.

The woman then approached city police commissioner Kamal Pant and filed a complaint petition with him. The police commissioner forwarded the complaint to the DCP West Division, Sanjeev Patil who directed the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Kengeri Gate to give a hearing to the case. The ACP summoned both the parties and counselled them to amicably solve the matter between themselves as it was a sensitive matter involving two families. The ACP gave time of around one month to decide upon the marriage and as per the woman's request, an agreement was executed in front of the ACP that he would consider the marriage, after convincing his parents. After a month's time, there was no sign of the man or his family relenting. She then approached the Jnanabharathi police and filed a complaint based on which an FIR has been registered against the man, his father, mother, brother, and sister-in-law. The man has been booked for sexual assault, while he and his family members have also been booked for cheating the victim. The police are yet to record the statements of the accused.

> **Boyfriend of 3 yrs breaks promise of marriage by pleading horoscope mismatch**

Breaking the taboo in a WOW way

World of Women (WOW) aims to educate and empower the world's largest population with heightened vulnerabilities of menstrual hygiene with a strong grass root revolution against the taboo. Shikha Golchha, President of WOW said, "We are educating young girls about periods and talk about them in a shame-free way. By improving menstrual health and tackling period-shame you can improve attendance and performance at school. We want to break taboos and misconceptions around menstruation; raise girls' self-esteem and enable girls to participate in all aspects of society. We teach girls how to manage their periods, appropriate yoga poses and use the sanitary pads."

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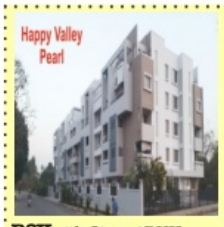

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Naveen's body preserved in Ukraine mortuary: CM

Bommai says attempts will be made to bring body to India as soon as shelling stops

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday stated that the authorities have recovered the body of Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagaudar, the Indian student from the state who died in Russian shelling in Ukraine.

"I have spoken to the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in this regard. He has informed that the body has been embalmed and preserved at a mortuary. He has assured that as soon as the shelling is stopped, attempts will be made to bring it back to India," he said.

"Continuous attempts are being made, the embassy officers have also told us that they are in touch with mortuary authorities where the body is kept," he added.

Naveen Gyangaudar was killed on March 1 after being hit by the Russian shelling. He had come out of his bunker in search of food early in the morning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called up Naveen's father and consoled him. Shekarappa, Naveen's father had requested the PM to arrange for safe passage of other students stuck in Ukraine as they are the assets of the country.

Naveen's death has also raised questions on the cost of medical education in India and opposition parties in Karnataka are demanding scrapping of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in this regard. The ruling BJP government has granted compensation of Rs 25 lakh for the family of Naveen.

As many as 500 students from Karnataka have returned home from Ukraine since the war broke out. Manoj Rajan, nodal officer and commissioner, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has said 142 students from the state are still stranded. —IANS

Sigh of relief as 700 students leave Sumy

In a huge relief for India, all its students trapped in Ukraine's Sumy moved out of the city through a Humanitarian Corridor on Tuesday, a day after a localised ceasefire announced by the Russians collapsed and fierce fighting resumed, blocking their exit to safety. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the students were being taken to Poltava, some 175 km south of Sumy, from where they will board trains to western Ukraine.

"Happy to inform that we have been able to move out all Indian students from Sumy. They are currently en route to Poltava, from where they will board trains to western Ukraine," Bagchi tweeted.

Nearly 700 Indian students in Sumy had waged a doughty battle in bomb shelters and basements of their hostels in frigid weather, low on food, drinking water and other essential supplies over the last several days as Russian forces clobbered the city with rockets and heavy gunfire.

"Flights under Operation Ganga are being prepared to bring them home," Bagchi said but did not specify from which border point and when will they be evacuated from Ukraine to board flights for their return to India.

The MEA spokesperson also posted a video on Twitter showing Indian students having refreshments in the backdrop of parked buses.

Efforts to evacuate the students from Sumy had failed on Monday as a tenuous ceasefire declared by the Russians crumbled shortly after getting underway.

Many students, who had boarded the buses for their journey to Poltava, were asked to disembark, as the ceasefire failed to take hold.

"The evacuation from Sumy has started. There was finally some good news on Tuesday. All Indian students will be evacuated from Sumy on Tuesday itself. They will be taken to a safe location from where they will be brought to India," said Anshad Ali, a student coordinator.

"We stood in a queue for three hours in freezing cold on Monday, waiting to board the buses and then, we were told that we cannot go. Thankfully, we have left Sumy. I am hoping that we will be in a safe zone soon," medical student Aashiq Hussain Sarkar told PTI, as fatigued students began the trip to Poltava, leaving behind broken and charred buildings and smouldering pieces of weaponry destroyed in war.

The Indian embassy in Ukraine issued an advisory urging all stranded Indian nationals to make use of the "humanitarian corridor" and evacuate using trains, vehicles or any other available means of transport keeping in mind their safety. —PTI

All-party meet to discuss Mekedatu

Expressing his government's commitment to implement the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai while ruling out negotiations with neighbouring Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday said he will be calling an all party meeting soon, to discuss the legal repercussions and going ahead with the work.

He was reacting to objections raised by Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah in the legislative Assembly, to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat's recent statement that the Centre is ready to facilitate talks between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the Mekedatu project. Citing Shekhawat's statement, Siddaramaiah expressed apprehensions about the Government of India granting clearances for the project.

Tamil Nadu is vehemently opposed to the project.

"Regarding the Mekedatu project there have been discussions, though the factual position is known to everyone, its repercussions need to be discussed with the legal team," Bommai said.

Noting that the task before Karnataka is to begin the work after getting the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved and environmental clearance from the Centre, he said, he has already had two rounds of discussions with the legal team regarding the legal repercussions, and will be calling an all-party meeting, probably this week itself.

"Our stand is very clear that our responsibility is to give Tamil Nadu the due water which has been allocated by the tribunal, other than we don't have any other responsibility. They (TN) have put a miscellaneous application, in this background, let's all come to one decision to go ahead and begin the Mekedatu work at the earliest, after getting to know the legal point of view from experts," he added. The DPR of the project is before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). PTI

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I, Santhosh K R/o No-175 , 1st Floor, Sri Maruthi Nilaya , 4th Main , M S Ramaiah Enclave , Nagasandra Bangalore-560073 have changed my minor son's name from Likith S to Likith S Arha for all purposes.

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I, KM Riyanka Devi, Residing at B-313, Vakil Mangolia, Vakil Whispering Woods, Madiwala Village, Anekal, Bengaluru Rural 562106 have changed my name to RIYANKA SINGH vide affidavit dated: 08.03.2022 Sworn before notary: B.M.Chandrashekar, B'luru

I, Kinjol Gyanesh Mehta Kinjol Mehta W/o Chetan Bafna, R/o No.435, Sneha villa, 16th A main, 35th cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, 560011 have changed my name to KINJOL MEHTA affidavit Dt.08/03/2022 notary Harisha.G, B'luru.

I, SYED SHAFIULLAH FAZLULLAH, R/at #373, Pashas Garden, Budikote Road, Hunasanahalli, Bagarpet – 563114. I Have changed my name to SYED SHAFFIULLA, Vide Affidavit Dated: 4/03/2022. Sworn before Notary: D.Guna Shekar, Advocate,Bangalore

WE Mr. Arun Daniel And Mrs. Siva Saranya Have Changed Our Minor Daughter's Name From Diva Elsa Arun, Holder Of Passport No. P4439212 To Diya Advaitha As Per Her Adhaar No. 408189538628 For All Her Purposes & Undertake To Effect The Changes In All Her Other Public Documents

I, SUCHITHRA SHASHIDHARA (Old Name) W/o Shashidhara S.C., R/o #30, Bhavani H B C S 7th Block, 33rd Main, Behind Mega Mart, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085. I Have Changed My name to SUCHITRA SHASHIDHARA (New Name). Vide Affidavit Dated 05-03-2022 Sworn Before notary Bharthi T.N Tumkur

I, BHANAR LAL JI, R/at No.22, 2nd Floor, Mehta Devsukh Apartments, MMV Road, VV Puram, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004 have changed my name to BHAWARLAL SHAH, vide affidavit dt:08.03.2022 before Notary K.V. Mani, Bangalore.

I, Priyanka Munot D/o Vasant Kumar Munot, R/o No.26, Gopikrishna, Municipal Colony, 2nd cross, 2nd main, Ramnagar, Dharawada 580001 have changed PRIYANKA MUNOT PATWA affidavit Dt.08/03/2022 notary Harisha.G, B'luru

I, Anthony Martin Francis R/o# 14, Athithi Layout, Tc Palya Main Rd, Sonnatha - mmanahalli, B'lore 560036 have changed my minor son's name from Kevin Anthony Francis Martin to Kevin Anthony Francis for all purposes.

I, Mayurika Manotoshkumar Sarkar, R/o No. 53 Vakil Marina Layout, Kodi Chikkana Halli, Bangalore - 560076, Karnataka have changed my name to Mayurika Sarkar

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I, Yamuna K, W/o Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy.N. residing at 119, 2nd Stage, 2 Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560056. I do hereby inform to the general public that I have lost / misplaced my sale deed /Mother deed dated 25.08.2004 which is registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, vide Document No. BLN-1-24031-2004-2005, Book No. 1, CD No. BLND49 pertaining to the house property bearing No. 6 and 9, Khanesh Mari no. 333, Assessment No. 24, Khatha No. 838 situated at Ward no. 6, Malagalu Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk within Rajarajeshwari Nagar CMC limits. Inspite of best effort, I could not trace the same and in this regard, I have lodged an online complaint on 23.02.2022 to Karnataka State Police vide lost report no. 0166350/2022. If anyone finds the above said document or in possession, please handover the same to the above said address or contact me on 8050676730.

FM expresses concern on rising oil prices

Worries over current spike in international prices upsetting Budget provisions

#BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday hinted that the current spike in international oil prices may upset provisions of her Union Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 as she voiced concern over the impact of spiralling oil rates on the Indian economy.

"It (rising crude prices) will have a bearing. We have made some provisions for it in the Budget (for fiscal 2022-23). But that provision is only based on some average (price of oil) prevailing earlier but now is beyond that. So, we will have to see how we can work it out," she said at an interactive session organised by BJP's Karnataka unit in Bengaluru.

International crude oil prices shot up to 14-year high of USD 140 per barrel on Monday before retracting to near USD 129 on Tuesday. But even this rate is 50 per cent higher than the USD 80-87 range of January when most of the Budget 2022-23 would have been prepared.

Sitharaman presented the Budget on February 1.

India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices. The twin blows of oil prices, already up more than 60 per cent this year, and a weakening rupee may hurt the nation's finances, upend a nascent economic recovery and fire up inflation.

"It will certainly have an impact on the Indian economy," Sitharaman said. "How much we are going to be prepared to take it as a challenge and mitigate the impact is something which we will have to see as we go (along)."

Separately, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi said oil companies will decide on petrol and diesel pricing as he rejected suggestions that a 124-day freeze in rates despite a 60 per cent jump in the cost of raw material was dictated by the government.

"Oil prices are determined by global prices and there is a war-like situation in one part of the world and the oil companies will factor that in. The oil companies will themselves determine the prices. We will take decisions in the best interest of the citizens," he said.

He, however, assured that like in the past there will be no shortage of fuel anywhere in the country."I assure you all that there will be no shortage," he said. **–PTI**

An attendant puts back a nozzle after filling petrol in a vehicle at a fuel station

Vehicle users rush to fill full tank

Since Monday, petrol pumps in the City are witnessing an unusual rush. Many vehicle users are going for 'full tank' anticipating a fuel price hike. Krishnamoorthy R, a businessman, said, "With elections to five states concluding, it is only a matter of time before the fuel prices increase. We know that the daily revision of prices has been halted ever since the elections were announced." Devika R, who runs a beauty parlour, said with crude prices going up and rupee sliding, the price hike looks imminent. "So, I went to a fuel pump to get the entire tank filled up. However, I had to wait for a long time as there was an unusually long queue." A petrol pump owner said they witnessed a rush a the station. "Customers are saying that they want to get fuel before the hike. As most vehicle users want to get a full tank, it takes longer to fill it up and this makes the waiting time longer," he said.

The forest fire squad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fire. "This is challenging terrain. Only the tribespeople and villagers are physically capable of reaching specific spots. Fire has to be put out when it is at lower intensity; once raging, we have to wait for it to settle down. The only solution is to physically beat it as no fire engine can reach these areas. A fire has to be beaten down continuously using green twigs until it is extinguished. Counter-fire measures that hold the possibility of starting another fire are used as a last resort," added Sukumar.

"When a fire starts, we take around 40 people to the spot and start beating out the fire. We see most fires during December till the monsoon starts. We take care of two ranges — Bandipur and Kundagere. We have two sets of volunteers: one for extinguishing fires and one to create awareness," said Swamy, a resident of Mangala village and volunteer member.

Wildlife experts said creating awareness about the subject is key. "In this area, every household has 10-100 cows. So grazing is a major task. Forest fires burning grazing pastures was a matter of concern. For two years, we faced severe water shortages too," added Swamy.

Tribal communities hold superstitions that a burning forest is a sacrifice to goddesses. The team has been going to schools in nearby villages to create awareness and bust 'superstitious' myths.

Noting that the solution to forest fires is to work with neighbouring communities, former director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Balachandra T, said instead of spending lakhs of rupees, focus should be on protecting forests.

"Forest fires cannot be stopped by the forest department alone. With the involvement of people, fires can be effectively checked. All forest fires are caused due to some sort of conflict between groups; mitigating the causes of fires and finding a solution is the right way. Awareness drives should be conducted at regular intervals to change mindsets toward collective ownership and protection of forests," he said.

The pit & the trash pendulum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

happening for months altogether and if the dumping continues at this scale, the quarry will soon get filled up. There are many apartment complexes in the area surrounding the quarry; the occupants complained the stench emanating from the filth is now entering their houses.

"Up until four to five months ago, there was a beautiful waterbody, which now looks like a dump yard. We started multiple initiatives on various social media sites to draw the attention of the authorities concerned, but nothing worked. The dumping happens two to three times a day; the garbage is a mixture of paper, plastic, food waste and inert waste," said Ashutosh Kapoor, another resident.

There is a school located next to the quarry but litterbugs are not even considerate about the health of children. According to the school authorities, since the school has switched back to in-person classes post pandemic, health-related threats due to heaps of garbage in the vicinity pose a serious challenge.

"Garbage is being dumped right in the backyard of our school. We have very young children on campus. We are worried about the impact of trash dumping on their health. When we tried to reach out to local authorities some time ago, we were informed that it is an authorised BBMP dumping yard. The stench reaches our classrooms as the quarry is getting filled up slowly," said Dinakar KS, administrative head, Amaatra Academy.

> **"Garbage is being dumped right in the backyard of our school. We have young children on campus. We are worried about their health**
>
> –Dinakar KS, Amaatra Academy

Though the locals have petitioned the local corporator, the dumping continues unabated. Left with no other option, irked residents have now decided to start a signature campaign and reach out to the BBMP.

"We have drafted a letter against the garbage being dumped illegally here; we are in the process of collecting signatures. We have already gathered around 400 signatures from colonies in and around the quarry. We plan to reach out to the BBMP office now," said Kapoor.

According to the experts, dumping mixed waste in abandoned quarry pits is a violation of National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives. They say that the leachate that gets gathered beneath the quarry's belly might lead to percolation into the groundwater, causing contamination.

"For any land to be declared as an authorised dumping site, there is a process in place; it requires environmental clearance from the state pollution control board. Moreover, when it comes to quarries, only inert material can be dumped. Household waste that includes decay-able matter can lead to groundwater contamination and is considered a violation of rules," said V Ramprasad, co-founder of Friends of Lakes.

BBMP at work

According to BBMP, it is not an authorised garbage dumping site. The problem will be sorted soon, an official of the civic body said.

"We received the information from citizens; work on it is underway. This is in fact unauthorised dumping of mixed waste; we are told the majority of it is commercial waste. We shall block the approach road and mud-cap the garbage. Earthmovers will create a trench to ensure that no one can reach the waterbody. Thereafter, marshals will monitor the lake to check any future dumping," said a BBMP official.

HEALTH TIP: Lettuce is made up of 95 per cent water, which can help to keep the body hydrated and increase one's daily water intake

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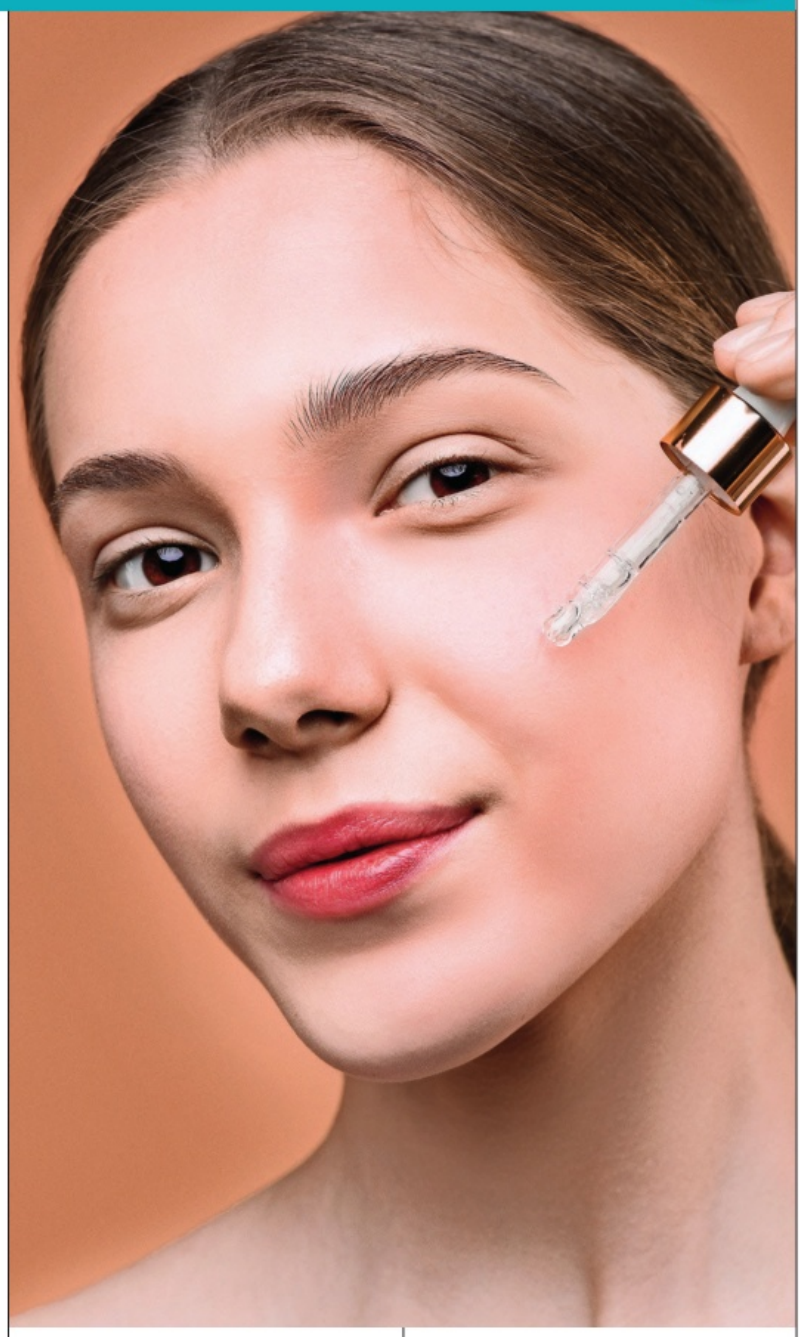


There are some skincare ingredients that comfort you (think: hyaluronic acid) and then there are some that can leave you fretting over them. The most common one – retinol, a vitamin A derivative that is touted as a multitasker with risque. Some of us know it as an anti-ageing ingredient while some regard it as an acne-busting cure. But what really is retinol? And more importantly – why is it considered to be a dodgy affair? Bonus: We also tell you how to make friends with retinol without putting your skin through turmoil.

What Is Retinol?

"Retinol, or pure Vitamin A, is a member of the retinoids family of compounds. Retinol is the most common Vitamin A derivative found in over-the-counter skin care products," says Hinaa Khan, Head of Education, Dermalogica India.

Explaining the difference between retinol and retinoids, she says, "Retinoid is the family name for any vitamin A product. There are several forms of Vitamin A available, some more potent than others." Retinol is potent – there's no doubt about that. However, one can't deny that it can aid with a slew of skin concerns like acne, dullness, uneven skin texture and, of course, signs of ageing – wrinkles, sagging skin, fine lines and more.

Why Is Retinol So Potent?

Retinol has got a bad rep for triggering irritation and causing the skin to dry out leaving flaky and peeling skin. After all, the ingredient does so much from generating new cells and shedding the dead skin to promoting collagen production.

"Since retinol increases cell turnover and replaces dead skin cells, new skin cells are exposed to external factors before they are fully developed and ready to protect themselves from environmental aggression, resulting in skin tightness, dryness, flakiness, irritation and redness, until the skin acclimates to this powerful ingredient. Retinol receptors, which are naturally present in our skin, begin to decline as we age. As a result, it is critical to introduce retinol products gradually in order to build receptors and reduce potential sensitivity," says Khan.

Tips to include retinol in your skincare routine

Build up gradually: Retinol is potent. Period. But does that mean you can't use it? No. Over-the-counter retinol is available in a range of concentrations. Start from the lowest and slowly build up as per your skin's comfort. "Since with age, the retinoid receptors in the skin decline, by introducing the product gradually, you can build up the receptors. This will make you less sensitive to the product as the usage progresses," suggests Khan.

Include In PM routine: Why? Simple – retinol doesn't go well with the sun and can spur photosensitivity and related problems. "Unfortunately, Vitamin A derivative ingredients are not photo-stable. This means that they break down in the presence of UV, reducing their effectiveness and the benefit they have on the skin, and increase the free radical load, making skin more sensitive and reactive," explains Khan.

Keep skin hydrated: When the skin is moisturised, it is basically equipped enough (strong and in good health) to fight common skin concerns ... and combat the chaos that retinol could cause too. "When the skin is introduced to retinol for the first time, it is common for it to experience tightness, dryness or flakiness. Increased skin renewal and desquamation can lead to dehydration and sensitivity. Using a slightly heavier weight moisturiser like the Dermalogica Active Moist moisturiser containing a prebiotic moisture complex will compensate for this water loss and help to relieve uncomfortable and irritated skin," suggests Khan.

Don't skim over SPF: You may wear retinol at night but it is silently doing its job inside the skin – perhaps, even the next day. To ensure maximised safety and protection, "Apply a minimum of SPF30 daily as the use of retinoid makes the skin more susceptible to UV exposure and increases photosensitivity."

MIRRORLIGHTS

Silvery magic on your feet

Silver is a reactive metal and it reflects and reverts back the energy radiated from one's body. Most of our energies leave our bodies from hands and feet and metals like silver, bronze act as a hindrance, helping the energy revibrant back into our bodies. This helps to gain more positivity and zeal. According to Ayurveda and modern science, silver reacts well with the Earth's energy, while gold reacts well with the body's energy and aura. Therefore, silver is worn as anklets or toe rings while gold is used to adorn the upper parts of the body

Looking back at history, silver was identified for its antibacterial properties. Thousands of years ago, when sailors used to travel on long voyages, they used to carry silver coins with them, rest those coins in their bottles of water. They used to drink the silver induced water as it was a good disinfectant. Silver ions destroy bacterial sheaths and this is a major reason why women even in tier 2 and 3 cities invest in silver anklets.

Additionally, silver aids blood circulation and since it is on our feet, the foundation of our bodies, it keeps pacifying the weakness of our legs.

Besides these benefits, there is ongoing research to prove that silver strengthens immunity and also balances hormonal levels. This is one of the reasons why in our country married women wear silver toe rings – it maintains a healthy uterus, fortifying the reproductive process and also eases menstrual pains. —IANS

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm in an awkward situation, as I've recently hooked up with a good friend's ex-boyfriend. Things are going well with us, but so far not many people know about the relationship, including this friend.
I'm not sure why I haven't told her because she's moved on with someone else and they're very happy. She split up with this guy several years ago, but it was a serious relationship.
Am I overthinking it?
I suppose I want her blessing or at least for her to be OK with it, but I'm not sure what she'll think. What should I do?

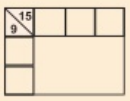
COLEEN SAYS

Ask yourself what you would think if the roles were reversed. I might be surprised and even wonder if you'd always fancied each other but, equally, if I was happy with someone else, I wouldn't care.
I think you have to tell her because you can't hide for ever and she's going to find out.
She might be happy for you and wish you both well or it might change your friendship, so just be prepared.
Things happen in life, circumstances change and so do friendships, but life goes on.
I think as long as you say you never thought about him while she was with him and that it's happened recently, then I can't see why she would have a problem with it. Tell her you can see she's happy and hope she's OK with it. It's better to confront it than feel you have to hide.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

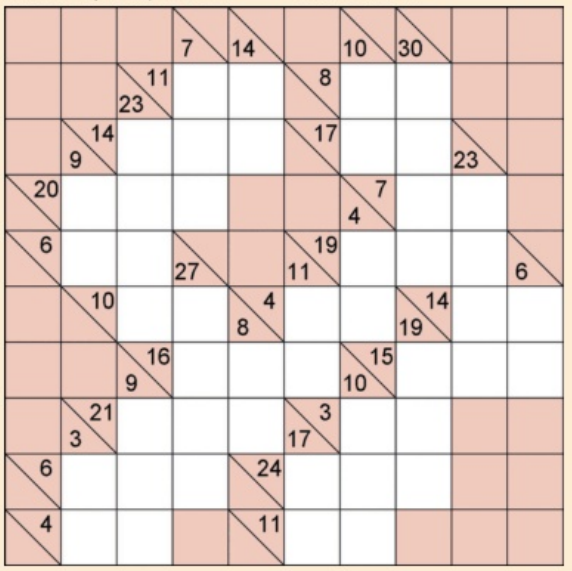
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

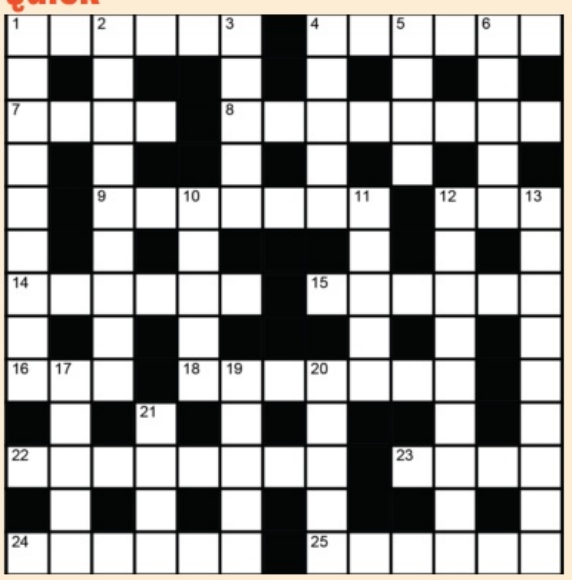


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Road built to avoid a city (6)
4 Writer (6)
7 Luxuriant in growth (4)
8 Remnant (8)
9 Dignify (7)
12 U.S. Govt. Uncle ___ (3)
14 Austria's capital (6)
15 Record needle once (6)
16 Greek Goddess of Night (3)
18 Tuft on the head (7)
22 Consultative (8)
23 Speak a certain way (4)
24 Part of a legal contract (6)
25 Common bird (6)

DOWN

1 Amusement park and recreation centre in Cubbon Park (3,6)
2 French dance for two persons? (3,2,4)
3 Artillery volley (5)
4 Horrible or dreadful (5)
5 Deuces (4)
6 Musical drama (5)
10 Group of nine (5)
11 Consumed (5)
12 Card game for one (9)
13 Deformed or distorted (9)
17 Sing partly falsetto (5)
19 Atmospheric gas (5)
20 Stimulate or excite, in a way? (3,2)
21 Place; stead (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS D

YNR IYXEFO LE HNZY YNRS NZWR YE LE ZFL YNR HRZV ZBBRTY HNZY YNRS NZWR YE ZBBRTY.

Linemaro

I feel comfortable around you

Mindchow

An old belief is like an old shoe. We so value its comfort that we fail to notice the hole in it

Joke of the day

Q: Why is it unpleasant to eat a meal next to a group of basketball players?
A: They dribble far too much.

Loop

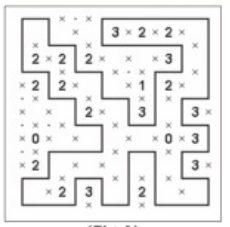
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

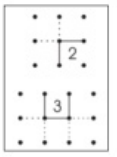
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

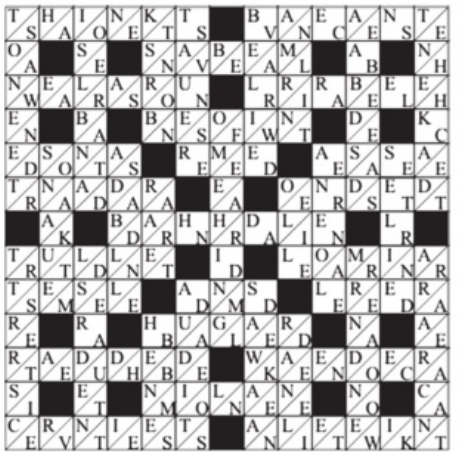


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

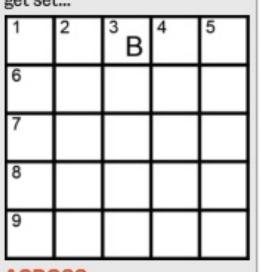
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

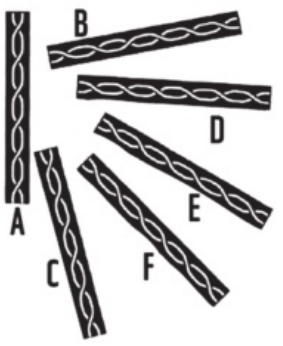
1 Acerb; 6 Uli Co; 7 Mix ma; 8 Do ere; 9 Smite

DOWN

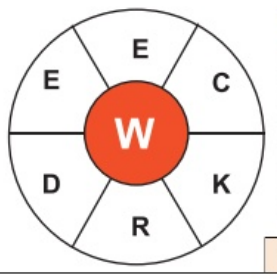
1 Comte; 2 I a car; 3 Ox Bum; 4 Li Dee; 5 Miser

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1		3		9		4	
5	9		8		7		3	1
6								2
	3		5		2		7	
	4		6		8		5	
7								3
4	5		9		1		2	6
	2		4		6		9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 27
2 3 3 9

Medium = 6
3 8 8 8

Hard = 2
5 9 9 7

Hocusfocus

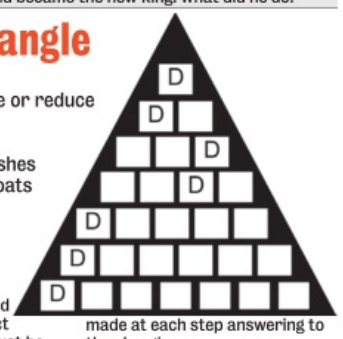
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Broom handle is longer. 2. Cloth is different. 3. Cap is different. 4. Cup is missing. 5. Cabinet is wider. 6. Flower picture is reversed.

Riddler

A wise king devised a contest to see who would receive the Princess' hand in marriage. The Princess was put in a 50 x 50 foot carpeted room. Each of her four suitors were put in one corner of the room with a small box to stand on. The first one to touch the Princess' hand would be the winner and become the new King. The rules were the contestants could not walk over the carpet, cross the plane of the carpet, or hang from anything; nor could they use anything but their body and wits (i.e. no magic, telepathy, nor any items such as ladders, block and tackles etc). One suitor figured out a way and married the Princess and became the new King. What did he do?

Alpha triangle



1 Vitamin type
2 Prefix for remove or reduce
3 Vermilion
4 Travel on
5 Helps with the dishes
6 Flat-bottomed boats
7 File

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

DON'T SHOOT! I HAVE A WIFE, HER MOTHER, SIXTEEN KIDS AND TWO BROTHERS-IN-LAW TO SUPPORT!
BLAM!
PZZZING
I HAVE WHAT?!
12-24
ON SECOND THOUGHT...

Bizarrotrip

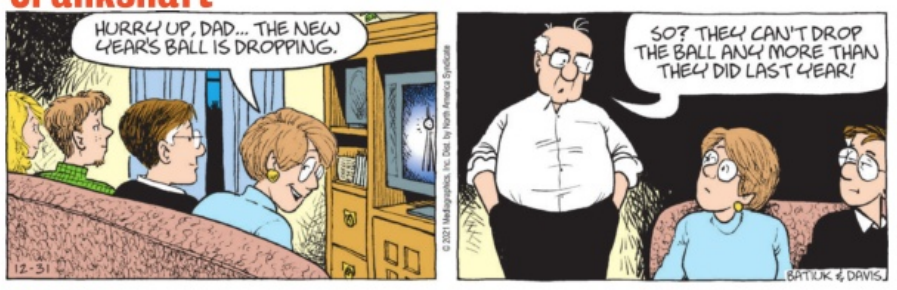
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
Let's patch him up and pray we can get his pressure back to normal.
BURST RESPONDERS
Wayno & Piraro 1-4-22
©2022 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

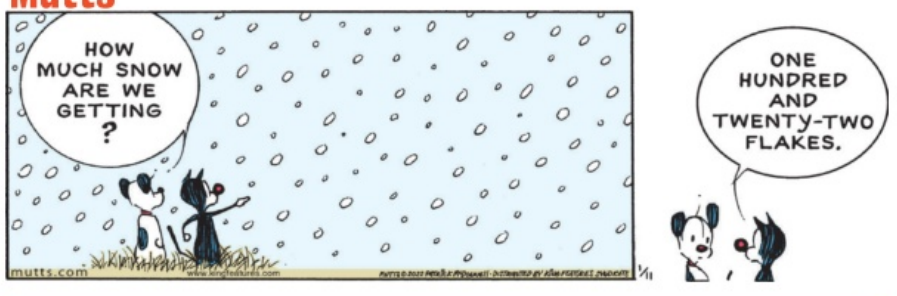
Hart of the city

I DON'T KNOW IF I'D BE ANY GOOD AT WRITING. I'M MORE OF A PERFORMER! I'M NOT A BEHIND-THE-SCENES GUY.
NO OFFENSE TO BEHIND-THE-SCENES GUYS, OF COURSE.
AS A BEHIND-THE-SCENES GUY, NONE TAKEN.
JUST OF THE CITY © 2022 JESSICA HOEL
@COMICS.COM/JUSTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


HURRY UP, DAD... THE NEW YEAR'S BALL IS DROPPING.
SO? THEY CAN'T DROP THE BALL ANY MORE THAN THEY DID LAST YEAR!
12-31
© 2021 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by North America Syndicate
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy with your family. You may feel happy to enjoy it with family or friends; you may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control spending money on worthless items. You may buy some important things, which may increase your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the elders' blessing may help you and you may try to improve your patience. Your focus may come back; it may help you to achieve your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There might be some balance between expenditures and savings. It may boost your savings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, some dissatisfaction may come to your mind; you may feel lazy and dull; it may affect your current speed of work and may delay a project. Love birds are advised to avoid any important decision in terms of marriage. Job seekers may get disappointed in terms of interviews.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your internal power may make you happy; you may get short gains in terms of investments. You may develop a good relationship with your boss. You may get a promotion. Your prestige in society may increase. You may also expect some work-related trips.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may get promoted to a good position for your hard work. Your working efficiency may improve, which may boost your confidence. You may also meet some influential person, who may give you a good direction to improve your life. Parents' health is under control now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be happy; things may somehow become better. You may plan to visit some religious place; it may give you inner strength. You may also donate some money to a religious site or to charity. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Singles may get their suitable match.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull; it may affect your way of working. There may be some delay in your current projects. It is advised to separate your professional life from domestic life, otherwise it may affect harmony in the domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure trips or rash driving. Love birds may have a break up.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel a positive vibration around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You may expect some long distance travel too. There will be faith between you and your spouse, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may perform your best at work. You may have a good bonding with your boss and may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Chronic health issues may get cured now. You may get good incentives for your work also. Disputes with siblings may resolve now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, kids' education may make you busy; you may plan for their higher studies also. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may update yourself and make some plans for higher studies to get a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Natives related to education, consulting and banking will do better.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dissatisfied. You may not be able to take up responsibilities. Your investments may incur some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing them. Elders' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy at work. Your network may increase, and with that help, you are likely to get a big order in business and work. You are likely to start working on an innovation in partnership. You may get some investments for your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will improve.

KIDZONE

V Sahaana, 11 years, Bengaluru

Ramamurthy K S, 8 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Sqr (2) x sqr (18)
= sqr (2x18)
= sqr (36)= 6.
sqr (1/9)-1= 1/3-1
= -2/3
6/(-2/3)= -9.

BULL'S EYE
crew, drew, ewer, weed, week, were, wreck, WRECKED

STRIKE OUT

T	H	I	N	K	S	V	A	C	A	N	T			
A	S		N	A	B	A	L		B	H				
N	E	L	S	O	N		L	I	A	B	L	E		
	A		B	E	F	I	T		E	C				
N		O	N	S		R	E	D		A	S	E	A	
R	A	D	A	R		A		O	N	S	E	T		
K		B	A	H	R	A	I	N		R				
T	U	L	E		I		L	A	M	I	A			
S	M	E		A	N	D		L	E	E	R			
E		A		H	U	G	E	R		A	A			
T	E	D	D	E	D		W	A	N	D	E	R		
S		E		M	I	L	A	N		O		A		
E	R	N	E	S	T		N	I	T	W	I	T		

FAST FIVE

C	A	B	E	R
O	C	U	L	I
M	A	X	I	M
E	R	O	D	E
T	I	M	E	S

RIDDLER
Asked the princess to touch his hand.

QUICK

B	Y	P	A	S	S		A	U	T	H	O	R		
A		A		W		W		P						
L	U	S	H		L	E	F	T	O	V	E	R		
B		D		V		U		S		R				
H		E	N	N	O	B	L	E		S	A	M		
A		D		O		A		O		I				
V	I	E	N	N	A		S	T	Y	L	U	S		
A		U		E				I		S				
N	Y	X		T	O	P	K	N	O	T		H		
A		D		O		A		O		I				
A	D	V	I	S	O	R	Y		L	I	S	P		
O		L		Z		E				A		A		
N		U		E								A		
C	L	A	U	S	E		P	I	G	E	O	N		

QUOTE UNCODE
The strong do what they have to do and the weak accept what they have to accept.

MENSA PUZZLE
8. The two strands should pass over and under each other alternately, as in the other examples.

SUDOKU

3	2	1	4	7	6	8	9	5
4	5	8	9	3	1	7	2	6
7	6	9	2	8	5	4	1	3
2	4	7	6	1	8	3	5	9
1	8	5	7	9	3	2	6	4
9	3	6	5	4	2	1	7	8
6	7	3	1	5	4	9	8	2
5	9	4	8	2	7	6	3	1
8	1	2	3	6	9	5	4	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, De, Red, Ride, Dries, Dorles, Dossier.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 x 2 x 3 + 9 = 27
Medium
8 / 8 + 8 - 3 = 6
Hard
9 - 5 - 9 + 7 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 15, Issue No 186 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

That's just odd!– After veteran actor Sam Elliot criticised the Oscar-nominated film 'The Power of the Dog', actor Benedict Cumberbatch stepped in to defend his movie, calling the former's negative reaction "very odd"

NO FILTERS

Five actors who like to keep it real even on social media

In this age of digitalisation where fake beauty standards are causing identity crisis amongst the youth, there are very few who try to keep it as real as possible. By doing so, they not only help motivate people but also embrace our true selves. To celebrate being a woman, we take a look at FIVE leading ladies, who have been their authentic selves on social media and set a new trend.

Shruti Haasan

Shruti Haasan is one of the actresses in the industry who have embraced themselves with all their quirks and motivated others to do the same with their social media posts. The actress had once opened up about being body-shamed through the comments she received on her photos. Shruti made it clear through her hard-hitting posts that it is no one's place to make judgements.

Sushmita Sen

Sushmita Sen is always brimming with positivity. She is often seen sharing updates from her life with her fans and the actress makes sure her posts are always filled with love for her fans. In a world where relationships are fragile and celebrities often try to hide it from the public, Sushmita not only embraced her love with Rohman Shawl but also shared the news of her break up with her fans personally on her handle.

Neena Gupta

Neena Gupta has never tried to hide her personal life from her fans. In fact, no matter how difficult the situations are, she makes it a point to face it, fight it and win over it. The senior actress is often seen interacting with her fans through videos where she shares stories from her life, gives life lessons to her fans and motivates them. She also doesn't shy away from asking the right questions.

Sameera Reddy

Sameera Reddy might be away from the silver screen but she makes sure she is never away from the minds of her fans. The actress is quite active on social media and is often seen sharing posts about body positivity, ageism and other relevant topics. The actress, who embraced motherhood at 40, has also spoken about postpartum depression and weight gain openly. She also once shared a picture of herself where she is seen flaunting her grey hair.

Ileana D'Cruz

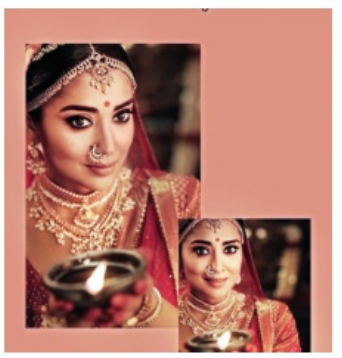
Ileana D'Cruz had earlier openly spoken about suffering from body dysmorphic disorder which caused her to worry too much about her body. However, she sought therapy and eventually got over it.She recently shared an unfiltered picture of herself where she looked drop-dead gorgeous in a red bikini. Along with it, she also shared an empowering message on body positivity and how one can easily get sucked into the applications that effortlessly edit bodies in pictures.

The perfect choice

Director R Chandru was keen on roping in a pan India leading lady for his upcoming Kabzaa.

The director's search was finally over when he zeroed in on Shriya Saran. Shriya, who will be seen in filmmaker SS Rajamouli's upcoming magnum opus, will be part of the multilingual flick that stars Upendra in the lead, and Sudeep in a pivotal role. "Since Kabzaa is a multilingual film, we were looking for a Pan-India face and someone who has made a name across multiple languages. After a lot of search and much thought, we finalised on Shriya Saran, who is the perfect choice for the role. The actor, who has made a name in multiple languages and has worked with some superstars like Rajinikanth, Nandamuri Balakrishna, and Ajay Devgn, will be working with Upendra for the first time," says Chandru.

The gangster drama set between 1940 and 1980 will feature Shriya as the Queen to India's underworld don, played by Upendra, and will have a retro look. The actor marked her Kannada debut in Arasu with a cameo, in 2006. Her last Kananda film was Chandra starring Prem. Kabzaa shooting resumed from Monday, and Shriya,Upendra and other actors joined the sets. "We have been working on the project over the last three years. With the film in the last phase of shooting, it will be done in a 30-day schedule," the director says.



—Mahesha H

Vicky's strength and his world

It is raining wishes for women in Bollywood, on the occasion of Women's Day and the latest to post a loving wish is none other than actor Vicky Kaushal.

The 'Raazi' actor took to his Instagram account to post a heartwarming picture of his wife, actor Katrina Kaif and his mother, Veena Kaushal. Veena is seen hugging Katrina lovingly, while the latter is all smiles.

Vicky posted an endearing caption, which read, "My strength. My world." He added a heart emoji to the caption.

Choreographer Bosco Martis was all hearts to the picture.

Fans too showered their love on the endearing picture, in the comments section. One fan commented, "Awwww this is so cute!! God bless them", while another one wrote, "Soooooo cute @vickykaushal09 @katrinakaif".

Earlier, Katrina had posted a wish for her lovely sisters in an adorable Instagram post.

The two love birds tied the knot in a grand yet intimate ceremony at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan on December 9, 2021.